

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 14024 020928Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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R 020826Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5080

S E C R E T MOSCOW 14024

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: ARBATOV ON SALT

1. IN AFTER-DINNER CONVERSATION OCTOBER 1, ARBATOV TOLD ME SOVIET SIDE, DURING PERIOD PRIOR TO RECENT WASHINGTON TALKS, HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED WITH LACK OF RESPONSE FROM US ON WHAT THEY FELT HAD BEEN MAJOR STEP THEY HAD MADE IN ACCEPTING OUR POSITION ON VERIFICATION IN SALT II NEGOTIATIONS. HE ASSERTED OUR PROPOSALS FOLLOWING THIS STEP HAD BEEN RECEIVED WITH DISBELIEF BY SOVIETS, WHO HAD THOUGHT WE MUST BE HOLDING SOMETHING BACK.

2. ARBATOV COMMENTED THAT ANY SENSE OF RESERVE OR COOLNESS WE MAY HAVE FELT ON SOVIET SIDE IN LATEST SALT DISCUSSIONS WAS DUE SOLELY TO THIS SENSE OF DECEPTION. HE STRESSED THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN BASIC, PRO-DETENTE ORIENTATION OF LEADERSHIP; IT WAS STILL HOPED THAT THERE COULD BE SALT II AGREEMENT THIS YEAR AND A BREZHNEV VISIT. HOWEVER, ARBATOV SAID, SOVIETS THOUGHT THEY HAD GIVEN MORE THAN ENOUGH WITHOUT ADEQUATE RESPONSE AND THEY WERE NOT DISPOSED TO BEG FOR AGREEMENT FROM US.

3. WHEN I NOTED THAT WE HAD MADE SOME FORTHCOMING SUGGESTIONS IN WASHINGTON TALKS, ARBATOV SAID HE WAS NOT INFORMED ABOUT THEM, SINCE HE WAS "WORKING ON OTHER THINGS." HE HOPED OUR POSITION HAD EVOLVED SO THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE AGREEMENT, WHICH HE SAID CONTINUED TO

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BE HIGH PRIORITY SOVIET DESIRE.

STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CAT-C
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW14024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840171-0024, N750005-0020
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751092/aaaaddxe.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARBATOV ON SALT
TAGS: PARM, US, UR, (ARBATOV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006